

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 02360 160549Z

21

ACTION SS-25

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R 160511Z APR 75
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5495
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 2360

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CB, SREF, TH
SUBJECT: REQUESTS FOR ASYLUM FROM CAMBODIANS - MAM NEARIN

REF: CANBERRA 2319; STATE 085373

1. SUMMARY: GKR EMBASSY THIRD SECRETARY MAM NERAIN CALLED APRIL 16 TO REQUEST FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM USG TO COVER TEMPORARY LODGING AND LIVING EXPENSES FOR HIMSELF AND HIS FAMILY OF SIX FOR THE NEXT SEVERAL WEEKS. ACCORDING TO NEARIN AND FROM WHAT EMBOFFS HAVE OBSERVED, NEARIN AND HIS FAMILY ARE UNDER HEAVY, CONTINUOUS PRESSURE FROM FORMER KHMER DIPLOMATS IN CANBERRA WHO ARE URGING HIM TO DEFECT TO GRUNK AND ARE THREATENING TO TAKE OVER EMBASSY. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT DEPARTMENT ALLOT EMBASSY \$5,000 TO PROVIDE SPARINGLY AND AS NEEDED SUITABLE LODGING AND LIVING EXPENSES FOR NEARIN AND HIS FAMILY. END SUMMARY.

2. GKR EMBASSY THIRD SECRETARY MAM NEARIN TOLD EMBOFFS APR 16 THAT HE IS UNDER HEAVY PRESSURE FROM HIS FORMER COLLEAGUES, LOCAL FRENCH NATIONALS, AND MALTESE AMBASSADOR FORACE TO DEFECT TO THE GRUNK. (FORACE IS ALSO ACCREDITED TO PRC AND HAS BEEN SIHANOUK SUPPORTER DURING PAST TWO YEARS OF HIS ASSIGNMENT TO CANBERRA). NEARIN HAS STOOD UP WELL TO THESE PRESSURES AND INTENDS TO REMAIN AT HIS POST UNTIL THE END. HOWEVER, HIS FAMILY IS HOUSED IN THE CAMBODIAN
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PAGE 02 CANBER 02360 160549Z

EMBASSY COMPOUND IN A SMALL APARTMENT AND IS BEING SUBJECTED

TO ABUSE AND RECRIMINATIONS. NEARIN WANTS FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE SO THAT HE CAN MOVE HIS FAMILY OUT OF THE COMPOUND. THE URGENCY OF HIS REQUEST AND HIS CONCERN FOR HIS FAMILY'S WELFARE IS COMPOUNDED BY THE VIRTUAL CERTAINTY THAT THE GOA WILL RECOGNIZE THE GRUNK AS SOON AS PHNOM PENH FALLS AND THAT HIS EX-COLLEAGUES WILL THEN ATTEMPT TO THROW HIS FAMILY OUT OF THE EMBASSY COMPOUND. IN THE MEANTIME, THE KHMER EMBASSY'S BANK ACCOUNT HAS BEEN BLOCKED AND NEARIN IS PRACTICALLY DESTITUTE.

3. DFA HAS INDICATED TO NEARIN THAT HE AND HIS FAMILY WILL BE GIVEN TEMPORARY RESIDENCE PERMITS TO REMAIN IN AUSTRALIA WHEN AND IF THE GKR FALLS. HOWEVER, HE IS STILL NERVOUS BECAUSE HE IS WITHOUT FUNDS AND HAS LIMITED PROSPECTS FOR EMPLOYMENT. HE AND HIS WIFE, HOWEVER, ARE DETERMINED THAT THEY WILL NOT LIVE UNDER A COMMUNIST GOVERNMENT, AND HIS STATEMENT TO THIS EFFECT ON THE FRONT PAGE OF THE APRIL 16 CANBERRA TIMES STANDS OUT IN CONTRAST TO THE COMMENTS OF HIS FORMER COLLEAGUES WHICH, WHILE UNDERSTANDABLE UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, DID RESEMBLE THOSE OF RATS LEAVING A SINKING SHIP.

4. NEARIN HAS TOLD US THAT HE WOULD BE SEEKING ASSISTANCE FROM US TO RELOCATE WITH HIS FAMILY IN A FRIENDLY, FREE COUNTRY, PROBABLY THE UNITED STATES, SOMETIME IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS. IN THE INTERIM PERIOD HE NEEDS TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE TO KEEP HIS FAMILY HOUSED AND CLOTHED. GOA AUTHORITIES, WHO APPEAR ABOUT TO TRIP OVER THEMSELVES IN AN EFFORT TO EMBRACE THE GRUNK, PROBABLY CANNOT BE COUNTED UPON TO BE PARTICULARLY HELPFUL TO NEARIN. OUR ASSISTANCE DURING THIS PERIOD WILL BE REGARDED BY MANY THOUGHTFUL OBSERVERS IN CANBERRA AS EVIDENCE OF HOW THE USG WILL TREAT FRIENDS WHO HAVE STOOD BY IT.

5. PASSPORT INFORMATION AND BIO DATA ON NEARIN AND FAMILY PER 2 FAM 227 FOLLOW BY SEPTEL.
GREEN

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